

DEER MASTER LIST

December 12, 2013

Specific proposed changes from 2013 are list below. All other season components except calendar rotation are proposed unchanged from 2013.

Statewide

Convert all general mule deer seasons to antlered-only, with a few exceptions to address urban deer and game damage issues (some Region 2 private land-specific general seasons; HD 388 (Helena)).

Generally eliminate mule deer B licenses, except to retain a few specific B licenses to address urban deer and game damage issues (Region 2 private land licenses (4 HD's; HD 388 (Helena)).

Generally eliminate white-tailed deer B licenses in Regions 4, 5, and 6, except to retain one license in Region 5 where the population greatly exceeds the long term average and EHD losses were minor in 2013 (599-00 with reduction of licenses from 2000 to 1000). No changes would be implemented in Regions 1, 2, 3, and 7.

Region 1

HD 101/102/109/120/122/124: Establish white-tailed deer antlerless B-licenses individually for each of these HDs. In HDs 101, 102, 109, and 120 these licenses are valid on private land only but not to include Plum Creek or Stoltze Timber Company land. HDs 121,122 and 124 these licenses would be valid on all ownerships, district wide. Quotas and quota ranges are listed below.

HD 101 – 50 (quota range 5 – 300)

HD 102 – 100 (quota range 5 – 300)

HD 109 – 25 (quota range 5 – 200)

HD 110 – 100 (quota range 5 – 300)

HD 120 – 100 (quota range 5 – 300)

HD 121 – 300 (quota range 25 – 1500)

HD 122 – 200 (quota range 5 – 300)

HD 124 – 200 (quota range 25 – 500)

HD 170: Adjust regulations to read: NOTE: Flathead Weapons Restriction Area portion of hunting district and Flathead and Blasdel WPAs restricted to ArchEquip, shotgun, traditional handgun, muzzleloader or crossbow only.

Region 2

HD 201: Increase existing white-tailed B licenses in Four Mile area from 5 to 25 and modify the area they are valid to be only private land. Eliminate the 50 white-tailed deer B-licenses for Ninemile/Sixmile Area

HD 204/240/250/261/270: Reduce white-tailed deer general license antlerless harvest opportunity from season-long to the first 9 days. Allow youth to continue to hunt for antlerless white-tailed deer season-long on the general license. District specific antlerless B licenses would be eliminated in HD 250 and 270. Allocate limited B-licenses for antlerless white-tailed deer in other districts as follows:

HD 204—50 B licenses

HD 240—100 B licenses

HD 261—25 B licenses

Reduce archery-only, over-the-counter B license 260-10 from 5 to 3 per hunter.

New HD 206/260: Adjust the boundary of Hunting District 260 to confine it to the Bitterroot River bottoms south of Missoula (see Elk Master List).

Eliminate LPT 260-30. LPT 260-30 allowed 500 B licenses for either-sex white-tailed deer, using archery equipment, shotgun, traditional handgun, muzzleloader or crossbow, from Dec 1-Jan 15 in HDs 204, 240, 250, 260, 261 and 270. This would return HD 260 to an archery-only district. Institute general deer license, archery equipment only, either-sex white-tailed deer from the beginning of archery season to January 15th.

Add “either-sex mule deer” to the general license (along with either-sex white-tailed deer) in HD 260, valid for both species from Sept 6-Jan 15. Archery only.

Add 1 over-the-counter B license for antlerless mule deer. Archery equipment only. Valid only in HD 260 from Sept 6 - Jan 15.

HD 240: South of Carlton Creek and outside the National Forest boundary, expand general deer license to be valid for antlerless mule deer as well as either sex white-tailed deer.

HD 240/250: Extend the backcountry rifle season for mule deer bucks from October 15 to the end of the general rifle season—valid only inside the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness boundary in

HD 240. This was LPT 240-50 and FWP would continue to offer 25 buck permits. Under this proposal, the season would continue to open on October 1.

Discontinue the backcountry rifle season for mule deer bucks in HD 250, due to the proposed boundary shift (see Elk Master List) that would reduce the available hunting area. This was LPT 250-51, and only 10 permits were offered in 2012-2013.

HD 250/270: Reduce limited buck permits in HD 250 from 85 to 40, due to the proposed boundary change involving HDs 240 and 270 (see Elk Master List), which would transfer the most accessible and productive fall mule deer habitat to those districts. Eliminate all opportunity to hunt antlerless mule deer in HD 270. This would eliminate LPTs 270-00 (25 B licenses), 270-01 (25 B-licenses), and 270-02 (25 B-licenses).

HD 262: Create new Hunting District (HD) 262 from portions of HDs 204 and 261 in the East Bitterroot Valley (see Elk Master List). The general deer firearm season would run with no weapons restrictions. A primitive weapons season would run during the archery season and up to the general firearm season. The two day youth deer season would be open without weapons restrictions. General licenses would be valid for either-sex white-tailed deer and antlerless mule deer. Also, 200 B licenses would be valid for antlerless deer, either species. Existing mule deer buck permits in HD 261 would also be valid in HD 262.

HD 290: Eliminate the current (50) 290-00 white-tail B licenses and replace with an over-the-counter B license. ArchEquip only. Up to three of these B licenses per hunter.

HD 291: Eliminate existing mule deer B licenses, reduce mule deer buck permits from 100 to 50, and reduce youth only mule deer buck permits from 25 to 10.

HD 292: Add 75 new and additional white-tailed deer B licenses (quota range 25 – 200) valid only on private land in the Blackfoot watershed.

Region 3

HD 309, 311, 312

All three HD's currently have separate, over-the-counter B licenses valid for antlerless white-tailed deer. The proposal is to have one B license valid in all 3 districts, with no change in season dates.

HD 388

Seasons within the weapons restriction area (WRA) began with an archery opener on August 15. The proposed change is to begin all HD388 seasons, within and outside the WRA, on the standard archery opening date (9/6 in 2014).

Region 4

No change

Region 5

HD's 500, 511, 530

Remove the following deer season note:

NOTE: Those portions of HD 511 lying within Golden Valley County are closed to the taking of deer exhibiting 75 percent or more of white coloration.

This language was apparently adopted some time ago to provide protection to an albino deer observed in the area.

Regions 6 and 7

No change